## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO** 



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## San Bernardino County Celebrates Asthma Awareness Month, May 2012

San Bernardino: Asthma is one of the most common serious chronic diseases of childhood, and San Bernardino County has one of the highest numbers of children with asthma in the State. In addition, asthma is a leading cause of hospital emergency department visits and school absenteeism. Moreover, African Americans continue to have higher rates of asthma, which leads to higher numbers of emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and death rates than other racial groups.

In response to these alarming numbers and in an effort to raise public awareness of the risk faced everyday by almost 25 million Americans living with asthma, the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Coordinated Asthma Referral and Education (CARE) Program is joining the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to participate in Asthma Awareness Month and World Asthma Day this May 2012. Our goal for Asthma Awareness Month and World Asthma Day is to bring awareness to the free resources available to the residents of San Bernardino County, such as the CARE Program and the Breathmobile<sup>™</sup>.

The CARE Program, which began in 2006, provides free home assessment and health education, asthma management and supplies for children under 18 who have asthma. The CARE staff helps asthmatic families and patients obtain knowledge, skills, education, and materials on how to properly manage their symptoms and disease. Since asthma is a chronic disease condition that cannot be cured, life-long management skills will help patients and their families live a stress-free, healthy and active life, which in turn leads to less emergency department visits, hospitalizations, absenteeism, and death rates.

For more information on the CARE Program and for referral to resources in San Bernardino County such as the Breathmobile<sup>™</sup>, please call the CARE Program at 1(800) 782-4264 or visit our website at http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph.

JOSIE GONZALES, CHAIR.....Fifth District